

## Possible Topics for the Bridge Roundtable at the FRA RSAC

1:00 - 2:15 p.m. Tuesday 26 June 2007

National Housing Center  
1201 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20005

### Strategic Bridge Issues:

What will railroad traffic, bridges and the general network look like in thirty years?

What is the effect of heavier loads (286,000 lb +) on the long-term serviceability of our nation's railroad bridges?

Will the railroad industry be able to generate and commit the capital necessary to replace or maintain the bridges in the future network?

### Immediate Bridge Safety Issues:

What resources (personnel, equipment, materiel) are needed or available to deal with the continued safety of the bridges under heavier loads and advancing age?

How can we best manage the inspection and maintenance of the older bridges to protect train operation against potential structural failures?

### Research Requirements:

Can better tools be provided for inspectors and managers to identify developing critical points on bridges and efficiently correct the problems?

Is there a possibility of engineering advances that will provide more economical solutions to bridge maintenance, rehab and replacement problems? Materials, methods, designs?

### FRA's Role:

What should FRA be doing constructively to protect the safety of the public, passengers and railroad employees (third parties), while avoiding unintended consequences?

Should FRA and DOT be advancing the strategic issues now to help in avoiding a transportation network crisis in the future?